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Sport for peace and development

Sport for development and peace: progress and prospects

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with resolution 61/10 in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution and on progress at the national, regional and international levels to encourage policies and best practices related to sport for development and peace according to the guidelines presented for the three-year Action Plan included in the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/373).

The present report reviews the programmes and initiatives implemented since the last resolution by States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other partners, using sport as a tool for development and peace. Particular focus during the reporting period has been on the role of sport as part of the peacebuilding process.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in compliance with resolution 61/10, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution and on progress at the national, regional and international levels to encourage policies and best practices related to sport for development and peace.

2. In his report entitled "Sport for development and peace: the way forward" (A/61/373), the Secretary-General presented an Action Plan intended to expand and strengthen United Nations partnerships with Governments, sport-related organizations and the private sector. All stakeholders were urged to meet the challenges and work in four broad areas: (a) advancing a common global framework for sport for development and peace; (b) promoting and supporting the systematic integration and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace as an instrument in development plans and policies; (c) enhancing coordination to promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements on all levels, including the engagement of sport organizations, civil society, athletes and the private sector; (d) developing and promoting common evaluation and monitoring tools, indicators and benchmarks based on commonly agreed standards aiming towards mainstreaming sport for development and peace.

3. The present report summarizes the steps taken during the first year of the three-year road map to implement sport for development and peace programmes and projects, and to mainstream advocacy and communication activities. It shows, in particular, the contribution of sport to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and peace; that the International Year for Sport and Physical Education in 2005 created an important momentum; and that the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace, under the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, was instrumental in bringing the United Nations to a vast number of people around the world.

II. International conventions

4. The International Convention against Doping in Sport was unanimously adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its thirty-third session, on 19 October 2005. The Convention, which seeks to promote the prevention of and the fight against doping in sport, with a view to its elimination, entered into force on 1 February 2007. UNESCO was able to realize the rapid entry into force of the Convention by drawing upon the strong support of the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace and other stakeholders. At present, 64 States members of UNESCO have adhered to the Convention, while all remaining countries are recommended to become States parties to the Convention.

5. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol opened for signature by all Member States at United Nations Headquarters on 30 March 2007. Article 30 of the Convention provides that States parties shall take measures to promote participation of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities and disability-specific sporting and recreational activities, and to

ensure that children with disabilities have equal access to participation in recreation and sports.

III. Partnerships and initiatives

6. The international community is committed to the Millennium Declaration and to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The International Year for Sport and Physical Education in 2005 demonstrated the power of sport in its various dimensions and its worldwide appeal to make significant contributions to development and peace, thus displaying its contribution to the Goals. The momentum is now carried forward by the three-year Action Plan, which presents a framework to enable the United Nations system, Member States, the world of sport and other partners to build on the achievements of the Year. It is a strategy to better integrate sport into the development agenda; incorporate sport in programmes for health, education, development and peace; utilize sport as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; and focus greater attention and resources on sport for development and peace.

A. States Members of the United Nations

7. Support to sport for development and peace by Member States was reaffirmed by the unanimous adoption of resolution 61/10. Building on the momentum of the International Year for Sport and Physical Education 2005, Member States have continued initiatives and established national policies or strategies that advance sport for development and peace. Support and guidance have been provided by Member States to ensure that initiatives are coordinated, particularly as regards the United Nations representatives in the country concerned.

8. The Group of Friends of Sport for Development and Peace, an open-ended group currently composed of 28 permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York, initiated by Switzerland and Tunisia in January 2005 and chaired by the Swiss and Tunisian Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, has continued its regular meetings. It encourages Member States to integrate sport actively into their international cooperation and development policies through the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

9. In July 2007, a note verbale from the Secretary-General was circulated to Member States requesting information on the implementation of the Action Plan in the following areas: strategies, policies and legislation, and programmes introduced and partnerships forged; the assistance given to build capacity and the exchange of information on best practices and national experiences. The Secretary-General also asked how sport was used to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to review efforts taken to implement the International Convention against Doping in Sport. As of 15 August, information was received from Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium (the Flemish community), Cuba, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Liechtenstein, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Philippines, Qatar, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

10. It is emphasized that information in the present section is based only on those replies received, presenting a sample of activities by Member States to implement resolution 61/10.

1. National efforts to implement sport for development and peace initiatives

(a) Policies/strategies

11. The Australian Sports Outreach Programme, launched in 2005, continues to implement Australia's international sport for development activities. Austria has prioritized sport for development and peace in its sport policy since its European Union presidency in the first half of 2006 and requested the European Commission to make sport for development and peace a part of the European Union-White Paper on Sport. Bangladesh constituted the National Sports Council and formulated a number of policies and strategies to promote sports, through the 39 national chapters affiliated with their respective international federations. Belarus promotes physical culture and sport to support people's health through the engagement of national organizations. Belgium (the Flemish Sports Ministry) focuses on promoting greater awareness and action to foster peace and accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through sport-based initiatives. The focus of the Cuban policy in sport is on increasing awareness of the importance of sport and its relation to the quality of life of its citizens.

12. The Czech Republic considers sport and culture as instruments which lead to peace, human rights solidarity and mobilization among individuals. Cyprus implements specific sport programmes aiming to bring peace through sport. Denmark has set out priorities and defined strategies on specific subjects in the area of sport and cooperated with sports organizations. Germany is committed to promoting peace and integration through sport, supporting the International Year for Sport and Physical Education 2005 and funding 24 model projects in 2005 and beyond. Greece uses sport to enhance a culture of peaceful coexistence in the South-East European region. Finland has set up a cooperative inter-ministerial channel to develop sport-related policies and strategies. Ireland strives to address social problems, such as racism and sectarianism, through sport policies. Japan promotes sport and physical education at the regional and international levels through its national agencies. Liechtenstein supports the United Nations in its efforts to use sport as a tool for development and peace through its International Humanitarian Cooperation programme.

13. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia plans to establish a sports infrastructure for the next five years as part of a national sport strategy. The Philippines has intensified its Sports for All campaign through a series of academic programmes organized by the Philippine Sports Institute. Qatar has organized activities among athletes, government employees and academia on sport-related themes. Romania focuses on the development of sport relations and international exchanges to promote its diplomatic relations with other countries. The Russian Federation encourages people to participate in sport and physical culture, in particular by organizing international sports programmes for youth designed to increase tolerance and respect for diversity and to protect youth from various destructive influences. Serbia's new Ministry of Youth and Sport focuses on the institutionalization of sport policies. Slovenia uses sport and physical activity to

promote healthy lifestyle and good nutrition. South Africa aims to use sport for community development.

14. Switzerland aims at strengthening strategic, political and operational capacities among actors in the field of sport and development. Thailand supports sport and physical education to create a harmonious and united nation, simultaneously promoting sporting excellence and professionalism in accordance with international standards. Tunisia has allotted over US$ 5 million to develop its sport and health policy, and organized the International Conference on Sport and Health, in conjunction with the International Year for Sport and Physical Education 2005. Uruguay's sport policy has focused on promoting social integrity through socio-educational processes. The United States Government harnesses the power of sports, sports exchanges and sports grants to enhance people-to-people diplomacy. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has undertaken various activities for children and pregnant women, using sport and physical education as a strong indicator of human development.

(b) Legislation

15. Belarus has passed legislation and set up the economic mechanism for the development of physical culture and sport to promote health by defining the role and participation of national organizations. In Denmark, the law on games and the lottery sets out the financial allocations for sports organizations, which enjoy a wide autonomy from the State. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia plans to amend the existing Sports Law by August 2008 so as to promote sports development and improve provisions according to European standards. Serbia passed the Law on Sport in 1996, and the newly amended version is ready for adoption by the National Assembly.

(c) Programmes

16. Australia's Outreach Programme will continue until July 2011. Austria supports such projects as football for street children in Ecuador and table tennis for street children worldwide, programmed by the Austrian non-governmental organization (NGO) Don Bosco One Youth One World. Bangladesh arranged short-term training programmes for football and hockey teams from Bhutan and Myanmar. Belgium has initiated the Flemish Equal Opportunities Action Plan to challenge discrimination based on gender, sexual identity and inadequate physical accessibility. Cuba's special physical education programme has trained more than 30,000 teachers. The Finnish Sports Development Aid has been implementing the Education through Sports project. Germany created a special budget for supporting national and international projects on the integration of migrants. Greece launched the project More than Medals — Absolutely Mental in cooperation with the United Kingdom to empower young people in the South-East European region.

17. Ireland initiated the project Football for All to combat racism and sectarianism, and launched a cross-border peace initiative, the Dunfield Project. Japan's Official Development Assistance projects are carried out through the Grass-roots Technical Cooperation Programme, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers and Senior Volunteers, as well as the Cultural Grant Aid. Liechtenstein supported a training programme in Kosovo (Serbia). The Macedonian Agency of Youth is building 35 arenas and 50 football fields under the project 100 Sport Venues. The

Philippines offers specialized multi-layered modules and certificate programmes in sport. Slovenia has implemented annual programmes to fight against violence, discrimination and social exclusion, and foster mutual understanding and intercultural and interreligious dialogue in the sports movement and in primary and secondary schools. Qatar held races for children and hosted a table tennis tournament to which neighbouring countries were invited.

18. Romania initiated the General Strategy on Sport and Physical Education 2005-2008. The Russian Federation is focusing attention on the successful hosting of the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi and the XI Paralympic Winter Games of 2014. South Africa has conducted since 2004 the Siyadlala Community Mass Participation Programme and the School Sport Mass Participation Programme. Switzerland is restructuring its international platform (www.sportanddev.org) and shaping the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group. Tunisia has introduced its national Sport for All programme. Thailand undertook a training project for physical education teachers in 2007 and drafted a concrete plan, Sports Science for Capacity Development of Thai Athletes, 2007-2008. Uruguay organized a Children's Football Summer Programme. The United States Government has programmed sports initiatives in 62 countries, including wrestling exchange programmes with Iran.

(d) Partnerships

19. Australia has joined with Papua New Guinea to launch the Sport for Development Initiative in order to deliver sport for development activities in Papua New Guinea. Austria joined the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group as a donor State. Bangladesh formulated policies and strategies in collaboration with NGOs and the private sector. Belarus works in partnership with other Governments, international organizations and tourist organizations, and currently 32 contracts have been signed for cooperation in the field of physical culture and sport. Since 2000, Belgium has cooperated with South Africa's Free State Province to organize a biennial joint Free State and Flanders sports event. The Czech Republic conducts a Football for Development campaign in cooperation with domestic NGOs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Football Association. Cyprus implements sports programmes with the European Union. Denmark has set up its Sports for All strategy in partnership with its sports organizations.

20. Over 100 projects in Northern Ireland and in the border region of Ireland, have been funded by the European Union Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. The Philippines and the Russian Federation are ratifying a Joint Sports Cooperative Agreement to provide a reciprocal support system for sports development. Romania partners with South-Eastern Europe and the Black Sea basin, as well as with French-speaking countries in Europe and Africa. The Russian Federation signed agreements in the field of physical culture and sport with more than 40 countries and another 10 agreements are being proposed for signing. Serbia has signed bilateral programmes with Spain, Romania and China. South Africa maintains partnerships with Angola, Australia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as various NGOs, including Boots International and the Sports Trust. Tunisia has maintained strong partnerships with its neighbouring countries to maximize the achievement of sport for development and peace. The United States forges a

public/private partnership with major professional sports leagues, sports federations, the Olympic Committee and sports companies.

2. Assistance in sport and physical education in other countries

21. Australia committed $A10 million to the Australian Sports Outreach Programme for five years until 2011, focusing on the development of sport in Africa, the Caribbean region and the Pacific Islands. Austria provided €50,000 in 2007 and will increase its budget to €80,000 in 2008 for the international sport and development projects of Austrian NGOs. Bangladesh provided Myanmar with a synthetic hockey turf as a token of friendship. The Danish national sports agencies and NGOs sponsored the education of sport teachers in Afghan elementary schools. Finnish NGOs, including LiiKe ry, are funded by the Government to develop sport in the United Republic of Tanzania and other African countries. Germany builds sports facilities for women in Afghanistan and trains sports personnel to work for traumatized disaster victims in Europe and developing countries. Japan provides physical education textbooks for Cambodia, judo equipment for Costa Rica and gymnastics equipment for Yemen, and promotes Asian wheelchair sports in Malaysia and gymnastic training for Jamaican youth.

22. Liechtenstein co-financed the project, Droit au sport, in Côte d'Ivoire in 2003 and funded the purchase of sports equipment for Chechen refugees in Ingushetia and for Israeli and Palestinian football squads to participate in the International Swiss U16 Cup in 2006. Qatar fully sponsored Iraqi participants in the table tennis tournament it hosted for neighbouring countries. South Africa assists Rwanda to develop sports infrastructure and to promote women in sport. Romania has sent athletes, coaches, referees and clinic assistants to other developing countries. The United States has funded and donated equipment for a follow-up football clinic in Afghanistan, having seen an eight-fold increase since 2002 in Congressional funding for sport outreach. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has opened the Iberamericano University of Sports for students from Haiti, Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and El Salvador.

3. Measures and programmes to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women through sport

23. Austria created sport funding guidelines for sport and development projects in 2007 that contain the condition of gender equality by referring to the aims of the Millennium Development Goals. Belgium has commissioned a scientific study on the participation rate of women in sports federation administrative bodies to address gender discrimination. Cuba sees a greater increase in women's participation in sporting events. The Czech Republic considers sport and culture as vehicles to empower women. Cyprus has established a Sport and Women Committee. Danish national sports agencies, together with NGOs, work for gender equality. Finland initiated a five-year programme in which gender equality is given higher priority with an increased budget. Germany has actively participated in the regular sessions of the European Women and Sport Group, focusing on the integration of migrant women and girls into German society. Greece is preparing for an international conference, entitled Towards the Equity of Genders in Sport, and participates actively in the Steering Group of the European Women and Sport Group. Ireland initiated the Girls Get Active Project and the Women's Activity Sport Programme to increase women's participation in sport, particularly in rural areas.

24. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia facilitates the advancement of women's clubs and conferences and selects women national representatives for international sports events. The Qatar Women in Sport Committee, within the Qatar National Olympic Committee, organizes annual conferences and courses on the role of women in sport. Romania has increased the employment of women in sport federations and agencies. The Philippine Women in Sport programme pays tribute to women athletes, educators and sports personalities who have made great contributions to the history of Philippine sport. Serbia is implementing the National Plan of Action for the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality. South Africa has performed several activities, such as Women and Sport Awareness campaigns and monitoring. Tunisia promotes women's right to sport by actively participating in Global Rights in partnership with Algeria, Morocco and Yemen. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is developing the Integral Attention for Children and Teenagers Programme to prevent early pregnancy through sports and workshops.

4. Other areas: health, and sustainable development

25. The Australian Sports Outreach Programme is strongly committed to sport meeting the development objectives of improved health. Belarus has a comprehensive programme of physical culture and sport to support health. Denmark, together with NGOs, works to fight obesity and other medical conditions resulting from the lack of physical activity. Slovenia focuses on engagement in sport to promote nutrition, diet and sustainable development. The Philippines ensures that sport is the essence of the Filipino culture to uphold a healthy lifestyle. Qatar organizes events to promote sports and activities and healthy nutrition among athletes, government employees and academia.

5. Implementation of the International Convention against Doping in Sport

26. Of the countries that responded to the note verbale from the Secretary-General, the following countries have ratified the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport: Australia, Austria, the Czech Republic, Demark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Japan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay. While the ratification is in progress in Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Cuba, Cyprus, Ireland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Philippines, Serbia, Switzerland, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the United States of America, they have established anti-doping programmes and increased doping controls, education and training, and are thus contributing to the international fight against doping. While Liechtenstein is not a member of UNESCO, it ratified the Council of Europe's Anti-Doping Convention in 2000 and its Additional Protocol in 2006.

B. United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace

27. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace has been pursuing his role in various spheres: (a) as a representative of the Secretary-General and the United Nations system at various important global sports events and forums; (b) as an advocate to lead the efforts of the United Nations system at a high political level to mainstream sport as a tool to promote development and peace and encourage the systematic integration of sport in national

agendas and in programmes of the United Nations and other stakeholders, as well as resource mobilization for special projects; and (c) as a facilitator to encourage dialogue and partnerships around sport for development and peace between actors from different sectors of society and within the United Nations system.

28. The Special Adviser represented the Secretary-General at sporting events around the world, held numerous high-level meetings, visited sport-related development projects in the field and seized various media opportunities to promote a better understanding of the goals of the United Nations and of sport as a means to achieve them. The activities have had wide-ranging impact, including the following: (a) they helped disseminate messages of the value of sport for development and peace to a cross-section of people and audiences at the local, national, regional and global levels; (b) they also helped expand the perception of sport by the general public and at the government level, to include the concept of "sport for all"; (c) sport and physical education have come to be seen as part of quality education and are being made mandatory in a number of countries as the universal pillars to foster education, health and personal development; (d) the advocacy that continues has also helped develop the participation in sport of all sectors of society, including persons with disabilities, women and girls, the impoverished and aged, and other marginalized individuals and communities.

29. During the reporting period, the Special Adviser, with the support of his Geneva and New York offices, has been instrumental in advocating and promoting sport as a tool for development and peace on the global arena. Through keynote speeches delivered at strategically important conferences, such as the Council of Europe's Informal Meeting of European Ministers Responsible for Sport on future pan-European sports cooperation (Moscow, 20-21 October 2006), the Global Forum for Sport and Environment, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Olympic Committee (Lausanne, Switzerland, 30 November and 1 December 2006) and the forty-first session of the General Assembly of the General Association of International Sports Federations (Beijing, 27 April 2007), the Special Adviser has been able to directly address decision makers of strategic organizations. At specific youth-focused events, such as the opening ceremony of the World Model United Nations (Geneva, 26-30 March 2007) and the International Youth Forum (Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt, 1-3 September 2007), the Special Adviser conveyed his message on the potential of sport.

30. A major event, under the leadership of the Special Adviser, was the first United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit (New York, 29-31 October 2006), organized by his New York office on behalf of the United Nations system. The Summit provided an important opportunity to mobilize leaders of tomorrow, bringing together one young man and woman between the ages of 18 and 30 years from nearly 192 States Members of the United Nations. The youth exchanged perspectives on how they could accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and build peace, reaching out to youth worldwide and working with their Governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, media and grass-roots communities. The Summit was co-sponsored by the Gita-Mohan Mittal Foundation/Vishwa Prawasi Bharatiya Leaders Forum, and the Inner Trip Reiyukai International, a Japanese-based NGO, with a joint contribution of $1 million for the Summit and youth-led initiatives to fight poverty in the follow-up phase.

31. A Global Youth Leadership Network has emerged whose members engage in powerful advocacy for the Millennium Development Goals, in close partnership with United Nations agencies, their Governments, civil society organizations and the media. Several youth delegates have made their mark, hold positions in government and serve on electoral, human rights and women's commissions.

32. In November 2006, the Geneva office of the Special Adviser published a major comprehensive report on the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 entitled "Sport for a Better World". It provides detailed coverage of hundreds of initiatives launched and numerous conferences held during the year. It also encapsulates findings of previous research on sport and physical education, where they are recognized for the important role they play in improving public health, fostering education and bridging social, religious, racial and gender divides, thereby contributing to lasting peace. The publication was widely disseminated and has become a valuable resource as a compendium of global activities and strategies on the use of sport for development and peace by Governments, the United Nations system, sports organizations, NGOs, academia, the media and many other partners.

33. The report made it apparent that sport and physical education are not luxuries in society and much less so in the developing world. The International Year for Sport and Physical Education 2005, with its report, has become a springboard for launching new programmes and strengthening existing ones, using sport and physical education to propel the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and promote peace in conflict zones. In addition, it has captured the essence of the Magglingen Call to Action 2005, which provides guidelines to the United Nations system, Member States and other stakeholders, in making sport, in its broadest sense, an essential component of the world's efforts to achieve internationally agreed development goals. In addition, the International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace, which defines policy recommendations, is a direct outcome of the Year.

34. As facilitator, the Special Adviser continued to forge strong partnerships between different actors. By selecting projects, formulating recommendations and providing guidance and contacts, the Special Adviser and his offices acted as relay station and clearing house, and brought actors from different fields together around initiatives using sport as a peace and development tool.

35. Owing to the continuing vigorous efforts of the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace, new partnerships were forged, particularly in the area of peacekeeping, such as between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the International Olympic Committee. The collaboration between the Department, the Committee and various peacekeeping missions has already resulted in Sport for Peace programmes held under the auspices of the Special Adviser in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia (see part IV below) and will be introduced in Côte d'Ivoire. Further initiatives have been set up in cooperation with Governments, such as the Give Kids a Chance project initiated by Italy, which will be implemented in Lebanon, together with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

36. Close collaboration has been established with regional organizations, notably the African Union and the European Union, to harness action for implementation of programmes at the regional, country and local levels. Partnership with the African Union has been made in light of the International Year of African Football, the fiftieth anniversary of the Confédération Africaine de Football and the lead up to the

2010 FIFA (International Federation of Football) World Cup in South Africa. The Office of Sport for Development and Peace serves as one of four members of the Steering Committee to promote the implementation of some 15 developmental objectives of the 2010 South Africa/Africa Legacy Programme known as the "Quick Wins". These intend to develop a conceptual framework of sport policy in Africa, initiate campaigns for addressing socio-economic problems, health issues and drug abuse, and work for the rehabilitation of youth in conflict.

37. The United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Office of Sport for Development and Peace, has initiated a programme in Central America to use sport as a tool for youth inclusion and promoting peace. A preliminary investigation is under way to determine the extent to which sport is incorporated by the United Nations country teams of the subregion.

C. United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies

38. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organizes annually the Run-for-Food race, which takes place on or about the time of World Food Day, on 16 October, together with the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and BioDiversity International. It has organized several initiatives involving major sports personalities. In November 2006, football champion Raúl González, FAO Goodwill Ambassador, travelled to Senegal to visit a number of small-scale projects funded by the FAO TeleFood programme; and another Goodwill Ambassador, football star Roberto Baggio, visited Laos in September 2007. FAO, in partnership with the Spanish Football League and the Italian Serie A division, held football matches in October 2007 to raise funds and awareness about the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

39. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and its Universitas Programme, focuses on youth social inclusion, development of skills and employability through sport and, in August 2006, published *Beyond the scoreboard: youth employment opportunities and skills development in the sports sector*. Accordingly, two research studies were undertaken in selected areas — Joux and Gstaad, Switzerland — to contribute to professional training and lifelong learning opportunities. This encouraged training programmes to be conducted in developing countries as well. The organization continued its Red Card to Child Labour campaign during the 2006 African Nations Cup and on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour, during the International Labour Conference, in June 2006. ILO and the International Olympic Committee held a round-table discussion on women in sports and an annual awards ceremony in Geneva on 8 March, International Women's Day.

40. UNDP has sponsored events, such as the Football Match against Poverty, which have generated attention to the Millennium Development Goals and mobilized resources for various projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Collaboration with the Government of Uzbekistan focused on promoting the rights of individuals with mental illness and led to Special Olympics athletes participating in European Football Week. In post-crisis situations, UNDP has harnessed sport to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and promote peace, particularly in Burundi, Rwanda and Sri Lanka, where a small fund has supported sports programmes. The Livelihoods Programme in Aceh, Indonesia, has used sport to

revive youth traumatized by regional conflicts and the tsunami disaster. Looking ahead, the Goodwill Ambassador programme will be integral to the upcoming 2010 World Cup in South Africa, by using sport stars Ronaldo de Lima and Zinédine Zidane to deliver powerful social messages in their roles as ambassadors.

41. The United Nations Environment Programme, at the time of preparing the present report, together with the International Olympic Committee and the 2008 Beijing Olympics Committee, were in the process of organizing the Seventh World Conference on Sport and Environment, to be held in Beijing from 25 to 27 October 2007, which is expected to be attended by key representatives from international sport organizations and other key stakeholders. In its efforts to ensure greener mass sport events, UNEP expects to sign cooperative agreements with the organizers of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. UNEP worked closely with the 35th International Association of Athletics Federations World Cross Country Championships, held in Mombasa, Kenya, on greening the event. UNEP and the Japan-based Global Sports Alliance staged the 2006 Global Forum for Sport and Environment in Lausanne, Switzerland. UNEP also continues to engage children from the Kibera slum in Nairobi, one of the largest informal settlements in Africa, through its leadership training programme, Nature and Sport Camp.

42. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization offers expertise to Governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs by designing and implementing physical education and sport policy focusing on development and peace-related sport programmes. In addition, priority is given to protection and promotion of traditional sport, while offering advisory services on culture and social and economic development strategies. The International Convention against Doping in Sport, which came into force on 1 February 2007, is a landmark accomplishment. Private-sector partnerships emphasizing corporate social responsibility are taking shape ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and capacity-building efforts are under way with the International Olympic Committee and such regional organizations as the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States. The 5th World Forum on Sport, Education and Culture, held in Beijing, showcased the role of sport in teaching peaceful values. UNESCO, as the United Nations specialized and mandated agency in the field of sport and physical education, has drawn up terms and conditions and related indicators within the concept of transnationalization, in accordance with the 2007 Physical Education and Sport Quality Reference Framework.

43. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supports ministries of youth, education and sports, as well as national sports commissions and associations, to promote purpose-driven life skills and responsible sexual behaviour with a view to preventing HIV/AIDS. Such a focus on sports events has yielded positive results in Ghana, Nigeria, Niger, Benin, Ethiopia and Botswana through education and communication materials, and reproductive health services. As the lead agency of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) co-sponsors in the fight against HIV/AIDS among young people, UNFPA is fostering partnership with the Confédération Africaine de Football to implement the African Youth Charter and other regional and global instruments, especially at the 2008 African Cup of Nations.

44. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is implementing the Global Partnership Initiative for Urban Youth Development, in collaboration with Governments, civil society, sports organizations, the private sector and media to foster peace and accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through sports. UN-Habitat commemorated World Habitat Day (1 October 2007) on the theme, "A Safe City is a Just City", in partnership with the Government of Kenya and several African cities. Together with the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation, it organized marathon races in Kenya, Uganda and southern Sudan, and is also working on development, social integrity and "Kicking AIDS out". The Programme plans to hold workshops and projects on gender, conflict management and advocacy prior to the 2008 African Cup of Nations and the 2010 South Africa World Cup. In addition, UN-Habitat continues its engagement with sports for youth in conjunction with regional and international sports events, ranging from the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games to the 2011 Rugby World Cup, to be held in New Zealand.

45. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supports programmes in developing countries that use sport to achieve goals in HIV/AIDS prevention, child protection and gender equality. Last year, UNICEF commenced a partnership with the International Cricket Council, UNAIDS and the Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership for a "Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS" campaign at the 2007 cricket World Cup in the Caribbean, with a view to jointly organizing a series of activities up to the 2011 World Cup in South Asia. Looking ahead, the UNICEF "Goals for Girls!" campaign with FIFA will raise awareness of Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3 around the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China, while its new work with the Special Olympics will support pilot programmes for children with intellectual disabilities.

46. Ninemillion.org, a global online campaign that was launched by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in June 2006, is the Office's global call to action to raise awareness and funds for education and sport programmes for the world's refugee youth. This innovative campaign is built on multi-stakeholder partnership, leveraging business acumen to create a movement for change in the lives of young people affected by violence and conflict. UNHCR, Nike and Microsoft pioneered a partnership that at present counts increasing numbers of companies and individuals as active supporters. Forty thousand balls, especially designed for harsh conditions, were donated by Nike and have been distributed to refugee camps worldwide. Funds raised have been allocated to education and sport programmes for refugee youth. New projects are on the way. The International Olympic Committee continues to support sport and education projects in various refugee and internally displaced persons settings.

47. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime established the Global Sport Fund with a $2.5 million contribution from the Qatar National Olympic Committee. The Fund intends to support youth crime and drug abuse prevention initiatives, conduct regional seminars and design training models that use sport to prevent drug abuse and criminal behaviour. The first Fund grant was awarded to the South African NGO Hoops 4 Hope on 26 June 2007, and the first training camp for approximately 70 young people from Bahrain, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Palestinian Authority, Oman and Qatar was recently held in Beirut and Lebanon.

48. The United Nations Volunteers programme has a track record of partnering with national, local and volunteering organizations to support high-impact initiatives for youth to promote sports for peace and development, dating back to Timor-Leste in 2002. These initiatives aim at heightened awareness of national issues and skills development, leading to greater contribution to national achievements. In July 2007, China, UNDP and the United Nations Volunteers signed an agreement to strengthen volunteerism for development through the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games. Some 100,000 volunteers will receive training and work on projects, based on the three concepts, "Green Olympics, Scientific Olympics and People's Olympics".

49. Since 2003, the World Food Programme (WFP) has been the official humanitarian partner of the International Rugby Board. After the 2004 tsunami, the Board staged a rugby aid match in London which raised over $3 million for the WFP emergency operation. The 2007 Rugby World Cup Tackle Hunger campaign will be launched this autumn. WFP and the cricket team of England have also joined forces in the Cricket against Hunger partnership, which gives cricket players the opportunity to visit humanitarian projects. WFP ambassadors against hunger include Brazilian football stars Ronaldinho and Kaka, as well as former beneficiaries of hunger programmes, including Paul Tergat, the marathon world record holder.

50. During 2007, the World Health Organization (WHO) has supported the aim of increasing physical activity through implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. A guide for population-based approaches to increasing levels of physical activity has been published and Global Strategy implementation workshops were carried out in Uganda, the Middle East and Arab Gulf States. International Physical Activity and Public Health Capacity-Building workshops were held in South Africa and Thailand.

51. Located within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Programme on Youth monitors and implements the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995 in its resolution 50/81. In response, various Governments have devised policies and programmes promoting youth involvement in sports and related activities, including games, cultural events, entertainment and community service, as elements of a strategy to fight drug abuse, juvenile delinquency and other deviant behaviours.

52. The Division for the Advancement of Women has also prepared an advocacy publication, "Women 2000 and Beyond: Women and Sport", which will be launched at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in February 2008.

53. United Nations information centres of the Department of Public Information are increasingly collaborating with the Office of the Special Adviser to advocate the use of sport for development and peace. The centre in Burundi launched the championships of the Confederation of East and Central Africa Football Associations to commemorate the International Day of Peace, 23 September. The centre in Dakar organized a press conference in September 2006 to launch the United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit. It also coordinated the media coverage of the trip by tennis star Serena Williams to Senegal to assist United Nations projects for the empowerment of girls and hold clinics for young tennis players. The women's sailboat race, known as "La Route d'Elissa", with assistance

from the centres in Tunis and Beirut, involving the countries of the Maghreb, the Levant and the southern rim of Europe, allows women from different strata to demonstrate their talent and perseverance. On 5 March 2007, the centre in Cairo co-organized a Sports-Pathway to Peace initiative in eight Egyptian governorates under the auspices of Egypt's First Lady, in which more than 2,500 school and university students participated. The centre in South Africa leads a programme on sport and Millennium Development Goals for the sub-Saharan region.

D. Governmental and non-governmental organizations

54. Since the International Year for Sport and Physical Education 2005, numerous non-governmental organizations and governmental development organizations are increasingly receptive to incorporating sports programmes into development activities. The outstanding role of governmental organizations in the field of development cooperation using sport and physical education as a tool has come to the fore, such as those of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. They have been conducting programmes directly on a bilateral level or through support for projects of NGOs. A large number of NGOs have an impressive track record of activities, cooperating as implementing partners of aid agencies or recipients of government- and private-sector funding, working together with the Special Adviser.

55. The Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group, which was set up during the International Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005, has been instrumental in encouraging the integration and mainstreaming of sport and development into national and international strategies and programmes. In June 2006, the Working Group issued a preliminary report entitled "Sport for Development and Peace: From Practice to Policy", which examined diverse national approaches to sport for development and peace. The preliminary report identified the need to position sport as a cost-effective tool to achieve development aims, particularly the Millennium Development Goals. The final recommendations will be presented at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, encouraging Governments to address the issue of sport for development and peace when formulating national and international development policies.

56. The Sport and Development International Platform, an Internet website dedicated entirely to the thematic field of sport and development, is currently undergoing reform in light of the demand for a comprehensive website on the issue to ensure that sport and development actors at all levels have a shared understanding of the field.

57. Right to Play works closely with the United Nations New York Office of Sport for Development and Peace, UNHCR and UNICEF. In 2006, it partnered with Nike and the UNHCR ninemillion.org campaign. Right to Play aims to build the capacity of local partners by educating and training coaches in implementing specially designed modules for developing leadership skills of children and youth. The organization is committed to providing its staff with a toolkit on gender equality and ongoing support to eliminate deep socio-cultural barriers that girls face and thereby broaden their opportunities. It also conducts SportWorks and SportHealth programmes, combined with youth camps.

58. Special Olympics provides sports training and competitions for 2.25 million children and adults with intellectual disabilities in over 160 countries. The games will be held from 2 to 11 October 2007 in Shanghai, China. Over the last two decades, the United States-based Institute for International Sport has held Scholar-Athlete Games on the Olympic model to foster understanding, friendship and goodwill among international students and scholars. National Sportsmanship Day, proclaimed in 1991, has served as a forum for approximately 25 million people from more than 100 countries to discuss the issues of ethics and fair play in sport.

59. The Conseil International du Sport Militaire launched 10 projects in various regions affected by tension and armed conflicts, including the former Yugoslavia, the Sudan, Cameroon, Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran, where military teams of several countries participated in true Friendship for Sports events and games. The Children's Football Championship 2007 was organized in Brazil to promote the social inclusion of unprivileged youth.

60. The Children of the World Foundation collaborates with the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace in disseminating the Planet Peoples' Games project to highlight the concept of healthy lifestyle globally. The Magic Bus Sport Development Programme seeks to promote, in India, the child's right to play, and gender equality through football, which has resulted in increasing school attendance. Play Soccer reaches out to 8,000 children, 5 to 14 years of age, mainly girls, in six African countries to focus on health and sustainable development. It will host a major event for youth at the 2008 World Cup of Nations and annually holds the Global Peace Games for Children and Youth on United Nations Peace Day. The NGO Committee on the United Nations and Sports organizes discussions and events and actively supports the work of the Special Adviser.

61. The Scort Foundation, under the auspices of the Special Adviser and in cooperation with UNDP, the Peres Centre for Peace, and the Al-Quds Association for Democracy and Dialogue, organized the International Football Coaches in Jerusalem. Play Soccer Make Peace partners with football clubs and federations to develop youth leadership in Estonia, Gaza, Iraq, Jordan, Ukraine and Yemen.

E. Sports organizations

62. Almost all major sports federations and private enterprises are increasingly using sport as a tool for reaching development goals, as well as fulfilling corporate social responsibility objectives. Nike sponsors the UNHCR ninemillion.org campaign and Sport for Social Change Network, while Adidas supports Right to Play, and the Laureus Foundation funds Sport for Good, of the International Table Tennis Federation. A conference recently held in Kenya discussed the issue of partnerships between Governments, NGOs and the private sector. Sports organizations have become further involved in the debate around the added value of sport owing to their experience and specialized expertise. Examples are given below.

63. International Olympic Committee programmes on sport for all and local grass-roots development to improve social and human well-being, especially the Olympic Sports for Hope project in partnership with the United Nations, have received increased financial and technical support from the Olympic Solidarity Fund. Assistance has been given to National Olympic Committees, international sports federations, the United Nations and NGOs. Steps have been taken to increase the

quality of games and their global legacy for the populations of the host city and country. The newly created Youth Olympic Games are to be the flagship of the International Olympic Committee's strategy for young people. Progress in gender equality continues by developing management and leadership skills of women in sports organizations.

64. Through the International Olympic Committee-UNAIDS toolkit, which is in five languages, and workshops in Eastern Europe and Oceania, the Committee is working on AIDS awareness and prevention. The Committee is also engaged in research on and prevention of the athlete's triad (anorexia, osteoporosis and amenorrhea). In addition, its sport programme for refugees and internally displaced persons, in partnership with UNHCR, reaches tens of thousands of people in need, particularly the youth, in camps and settlements in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The Giving Is Winning campaign, funded by the Olympic Solidarity Fund, is a major collection of sports and casual clothes, which will run until the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

65. The International Paralympic Committee participates in sport for development interventions as an effective engagement strategy for developing nations where persons with disabilities are hard to locate and need greater assistance. Such projects provide vital opportunities to raise awareness about and participation in the paralympic movement, which views sport as a human right, and awareness about HIV/AIDS. The Committee collaborates with UK Sport, Commonwealth Games Canada, Handicap International, Landmine Survivors Network and Rehabilitation International. It launched the Organizational Development Initiative to build the organizational capacity of National Paralympic Committees, and held Women in Paralympic Sport Leadership Summits in Germany from 22-24 June 2007.

66. FIFA and its strategic ally, streetfootballworld, officially established the Football for Hope movement in March 2007 to increase the impact of football in order to promote development, peace and social change. The programme concentrates on health promotion, peacebuilding, children's rights and education (especially for girls), anti-discrimination and social integration, as well as the environment. The Federation is committed to investing at least 0.7 per cent of its total revenues in sustainable organizations on all continents by 2015. Twenty-seven organizations worldwide, working towards development through football, have been funded, with a total amount of approximately $1 million. The Football for Hope Toolbox serves as an instrument for the dissemination and reproduction of best practices and capacity-building. Until the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, FIFA places special focus on the African continent with its programme Win in Africa with Africa. In addition, the Federation initiated the Artificial Turf Pitches project, with a budget close to $38 million, to cover 52 African countries by mid-2008. Moreover, FIFA, under the new slogan, "For the Game, For the World", is achieving its mission of touching the world with a better future through games.

IV. Sport for peacebuilding and conflict prevention

67. Since the beginning of 2006, activities of the Office of Sport for Development and Peace have reflected an increasing focus on the role of sport in peacebuilding activities. Sporting programmes were launched in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia in partnership with the United Nations peacekeeping missions in both countries and with the support of the International Olympic Committee. The

programmes have illustrated the effectiveness and power of using sport as a tool in post-conflict regions.

68. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) co-organized the Jeux de la Paix, held under the auspices of the Special Adviser in August 2006. The aim of this "sport for all" event was to promote peace and reconciliation from the first round of historic presidential and legislative elections in July 2006 to the announcement of the official election results on 20 August 2006. About 3,000 inhabitants of the 24 communities of Kinshasa and 300 international peacekeepers (250 from MONUC, 50 from the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina) participated in various sport events, such as marathon, cycling, football and basketball tournaments. The events particularly targeted youth and women from disadvantaged communities and served as a rare platform for direct and spontaneous encounters between the local population and the personnel of international organizations.

69. In March 2007, a five-week nationwide Sport for Peace programme was held throughout Liberia's 15 counties. The programme was initiated by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the International Olympic Committee and the Special Adviser. The Committee donated $76,000 worth of sports equipment for the programme. It was officially launched on 2 March by the President of Liberia, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Coordinator of UNMIL, the Head of the Liberian National Olympic Committee and the Special Adviser.

70. Preliminary discussions have taken place to commence similar projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Lebanon, the Sudan and other hot spots. In June 2007, the Jordanian Olympic Committee, under the leadership of Prince Feisal bin al-Hussein and in partnership with the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee, launched the Peace through Sport programme to provide stability and social cohesion for young people in the region. In addition, other initiatives under preparation are the Inter-Korean Friendly Football Match in 2008 and the Sport for Peace initiative in the Sudan.

V. Lessons learned

71. While sport is being increasingly mainstreamed into the existing development and peace programmes of a large number of Member States, there is at the same time uneven progress. Many lessons have been learned but they can only become valuable if they are enshrined in activity, designs and plans, and delineated as a set of guiding principles for all development and peace-related activities:

- Although vast differences between developing and least developed countries are evident, there has been greater integration of sport across all geographical regions, even where no pre-existing sport system and infrastructure were in place. The lack of adequate resources, facilities and trained personnel continues to be a key constraint in many countries

- Sport should be adequately positioned within the frame of reference used by aid agencies and explicitly stated within aid agency policy documents, so that countries receiving aid assistance could choose to use aid funding for sport programming and make greater allocations to sport in their internal budgets

- The lack of scientific evidence on the success of sport to achieve the Millennium Development Goals has counteracted the full awareness of its potential. Consistent messages regarding the intrinsic value of sport and its administration, based on sound evidence, must be developed and disseminated
- The potential contribution of sport has often been constrained because adequate attention has not been paid to local and national capacity-building and ownership to enable sustainability of projects. Experience teaches us that programmes should be driven by local needs
- Developed on a strong evidence base, guidelines should be developed to help determine which types of programme designs are effective in specific situations. This should be matched with a participatory design approach (including appreciative enquiry, if appropriate) so that effective designs build on the strengths within a community to meet the priorities identified by it
- Greater focus on the status of women in sport through research, policy analysis, programme design, capacity-building and awareness-raising would bring about their more effective and faster integration. This is equally true of other marginalized segments of the population.

VI. Next steps

72. There is still much that needs to be accomplished to strengthen a common vision, define priorities and further raise awareness of the potential of sport and physical education in helping to achieve the global and national agendas and programmes promoting education, health, development and peace. The Special Adviser has made efforts towards the development of a common road map and coherent framework for action to build global partnerships around sport and physical education. The completion of the first year of the Action Plan provides new leads for its momentum in the next biennium. Based on results achieved so far, it is necessary that Member States, the United Nations system, sport-related organizations, the media, civil society, the private sector and all other stakeholders continue their efforts, in pursuance of the Action Plan, along the following lines:

- Delineate a framework of sport for development and peace for more effective implementation of the Action Plan by upholding and utilizing the values of sport and physical education
- Promote further policy guidelines to consolidate sport in cross-cutting development strategies with the tools designed to date continually being developed, refined and used
- Strengthen partnerships based on global development goals, especially the Millennium Development Goals, to provide a common denominator and agenda for stakeholders, using sport as a cost-effective tool
- Incorporate sport and physical education in international, regional and national development policies and programmes and undertake greater responsibility for further progress of sport-related development and peace initiatives
- Mobilize greater resources to enhance the sustainable implementation of the Action Plan and set in place funding mechanisms through multi-stakeholder arrangements and creative partnership arrangements on a voluntary basis

- Promote more investment to expand sports infrastructure and facilities, including resources to enable greater access to sport by children, youth and other marginalized groups, as well as to support sports science and sports medicine programmes
- Promote aid agencies to explicitly reference sport and physical education as an accepted and legitimate tool in their policy documents, which can gain allocated funding from within the aid budgets of national Governments
- Make sport and physical education more accessible to larger segments of the world's population, especially children, youth and women, who are still denied the right to play
- Develop and reinforce a more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework with systematic and scientific monitoring tools to demonstrate results, as well as to capture and disseminate lessons learned
- Utilize more vigorously sport and physical education to help reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, especially among young people, and to fight obesity through the promotion of physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle for people of all ages and walks of life
- Encourage greater participation of women and girls in sport as an effective means to promote the empowerment of women
- Encourage sports celebrities to serve as spokespersons and goodwill ambassadors so as to help foster the positive values of sport and the achievement of development goals
- Encourage Governments and international sports organizations to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in their capacity-building efforts in sport and physical education by providing national experiences and best practices, as well as financial, technical and logistic resources
- Strengthen cooperation of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, FIFA and sports organizations with the United Nations system, Member States and the NGO sector in promoting development and peace policies
- Urge all Member States that have not done so to ratify the International Convention against Doping in Sport, and to increase coordination at the international level for a more effective fight against doping
- Call upon Governments, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to further advance sport for development and peace through creative sport events, special conferences and meetings, and featuring sport on national and international platforms, such as the World Economic Forum
- Invite Member States to provide voluntary contributions to ensure adequate execution of and follow-up to the activities being implemented by the Office of Sport for Development and Peace in Geneva and in New York.